



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ralph de la Torre, et al;

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.: 10/666,707

Examiner:

Filed: 09/19/2003

Attorney Docket: MED-019

Title: Pericardial Retractor

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on this day with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

David P. Gordon Jan 19, 2004
David P. Gordon Date

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

SUBMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO DUTY OF DISCLOSURE

Pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure 37 CFR Section 1.56, enclosed is a completed form PTOL-1449 as well as copies of the cited documents that relate to the above-referenced patent application. Since this document submittal is being presented prior to the first examination on the merits, no fee is due herewith.

The listed documents are brought to the Examiner's attention because they are known to the applicant and/or the applicant's attorney and may be considered by the Examiner to be material to his/her examination. This listing should not be construed as representation that a search has been made or that no better art exists. No inference should be made that the documents are in fact material merely because they are referenced herein. Moreover, no representation is made that the brief descriptions of the references herein necessarily describe the most material aspects of the references. Further, by this listing, the applicant is not making any admission regarding the relative dates of the invention and listed disclosures.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Gordon

David P. Gordon
Reg. #29,996
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Gordon & Jacobson, P.C.
65 Woods End Road
Stamford, CT 06905
(203) 329-1160



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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Group

US PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials		Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing date if approp.
	A	US 6,221,008B1	04/24/01	Keckstein et al.	600	204	02/10/97
	B	6,068,648	05/30/00	Cole et al.	606	232	01/26/98
	C	5,702,352	12/30/97	Kimura et al.	600	201	09/15/95
	D	5,613,939	03/25/97	Failla	600	201	06/05/95
	E	5,573,495	11/12/96	Adler	600	204	08/19/94
	F	5,531,759	07/02/96	Kensey et al.	606	213	04/29/94
	G	5,289,817	03/01/94	Williams et al.	128	20	08/20/91
	H	5,041,129	08/20/91	Hayhurst et al.	606	232	07/02/90
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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED